

**THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
CLEVELAND 6. OHIO**

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FOR RELEASE

THE FINE ARTS GARDEN

The Fine Arts Garden which forms such a fitting approach to The Cleveland Museum of Art is the realization of a dream long cherished by the Garden Club of Cleveland. Many years ago the Garden Club raised funds for the preparation of preliminary plans to improve that part of Wade Park now known as the Fine Arts Garden.

Once the project was under way voluntary contributions came from many individuals offering to provide architectural features. At the same time the City of Cleveland agreed to culvert Doan Brook, do necessary grading, planting and provide maintenance.

On the afternoon of July 23, 1928, the Garden was dedicated and presented to the City. Cleveland has always been noted for its fine cooperative spirit. The Fine Arts Garden is a living monument to that spirit.

The Garden embraces the tract between the Museum, Euclid Avenue and the two Boulevard drives. In front of the Museum is a terrace with marble balustrade from which a flight of marble steps leads down to an oval garden. The general theme of the sculpture in this oval garden consists of THE FOUNTAIN OF THE WATERS symbolizing the Sun and the Earth in their relation to these waters, the whole being surrounded by the heavens - thus forming the Court of Nature of the Fine Arts Garden. The two main figure groups represent the flowing waters and the lake, and the waters returning to the parent lake. On either side are two children representing the flowers of the river banks. A large column of water rises from the center bowl from which the water falls in four cascades into an octagonal basin. From there it widens into rivulets running into the larger pool from the corners of which it is thrown back in spray. The whole is expressive of the movement of the waters.

Two bronzes, the Sun and the Earth, flank THE FOUNTAIN OF THE WATERS. The Earth calls the water to her; the Sun, as it passes through the heavens, with its

shafts, draws the water into cloud form.

Surrounding the main terrace are the twelve signs of the Zodiac. These are in decorative form, and in addition to the symbols, the stars of each group of the Zodiac are represented in correct relation one to the other. The material of these signs is selected Vermont marble of variegated green and white.

A long turf panel also enclosed by hedge slopes from the oval garden terminating in another terrace with marble balustrade and steps at the lake.

These formal areas are surrounded by informal paths, trees, flowers, lawns and shrubbery. The land adjoining the lake is treated with similar informality, but with a slight touch of formality seen in the white marble benches and a couple of bronze drinking fountains, placed beside the paths for the convenience of visitors.

At Euclid Avenue another marble terrace is flanked with stairs leading down to the lake. On its lower level is a bronze figure group called "Night Passing the Earth to Day." Two little sculptured mermaids form a group placed at the water's edge.

Frank Law Olmstead, Boston landscape architect, who designed the Fine Arts Garden said "I know of no other example of landscape art as beautiful as this where such a large part of the population pass daily and enjoy it." The Garden and the Museum stand together as a triumph of architecture and landscape art - a perfect whole for the enrichment of all the people of Cleveland.

It is located on Euclid Avenue between East and Liberty Boulevards.